



## Information Letter



FOR N. C. A. MEMBERS

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### CONTENTS

	Page		Page
Pending sugar labeling legislation	210	Canada amends labeling regulations	215
Disposal of canning plant wastes	211	Canners invited to American Wholesale Grocers meeting	215
U. S. Veterans Bureau to buy canned vegetables	212	Freight rate increase to be argued May 19th	215
Proposed freight increase suspended	213	Hearings on clean bills of lading	216
Supreme Court decisions	213	Car landings	216
Coming canners meetings	214	Iodine content of Pacific Coast salmon	216
Advertising Norwegian fish in foreign countries	214	Canned fishery products in 1925	217
Conference on warehouse terms and conditions	214		

### Pending Sugar Labeling Legislation

The House Committee on Interstate and Foreign Commerce on Thursday ordered favorably reported a bill (H. R. 11193) which would amend the Food and Drug Act by providing that confectionery, frozen products, products of the bakery, meat or meat products shall not be deemed to be misbranded under the provisions of the Act for failure to declare the presence of dextrose (corn sugar), levulose (fruit sugar), or maltose (malt sugar).

As originally introduced by Representative Cole, the bill also provided that "any other article of food prepared with sugar, or to which sugar has been added, shall be deemed to be misbranded unless it or its container is plainly and conspicuously labeled or branded with the name of each kind of sugar used."

In reporting the bill the House Committee eliminated the compulsory labeling provision for articles prepared with sugar or to which sugar is added. Apparently, this change would leave the requirements as they are at present, and it would still be necessary to declare the presence of sugars other than sucrose (cane and beet sugar) in canned foods.

The Senate some time ago passed a bill (S. 481) introduced by Senator Cummins, which provides that food products shall not be deemed adulterated or misbranded because of having been preserved or sweetened with corn sugar (dextrose) or fruit sugar (levulose).

So far as the canning industry is concerned, therefore, the pending House bill apparently would make no change in the present requirements. The bill passed by the Senate, on the other hand, would permit the use of corn sugar or fruit sugar without special labeling.

### Disposal of Canning Plant Wastes

In the view of the adoption in one state of legislation requiring the purification of canning wastes, and the fact that other states are considering similar laws or the application to canneries of legislation already enacted, the National Canners Association has requested the Surgeon General of the United States Public Health Service to undertake an investigation of the subject, which has already been given some study by that Service. In the meantime, the Association desires to obtain from its members as much information as possible regarding methods they may have adopted. Canners who have systems that provide either partial or complete purification of their wastes are requested to furnish the Research Laboratory with a brief description of the process they employ.

Requests have been received from time to time for suggestions on the disposal of liquid wastes, these being due usually, though not always, to pressure brought to bear on the canners by local or state health officials. Preparations were begun at various times to study the question, but the matter was dropped when the canners making the requests reported that they had satisfied the health officials and were not interested in proceeding further.

About 1914, a request for assistance came from a New York State canner and the Association interested the Chemical Division and the Stream Pollution Laboratory of the United States Public Health Service in beginning a study of the problem.

The Public Health Service had at that time, and still has, an appropriation for investigating the pollution of public streams, and felt that it would be appropriate to expend a portion of that appropriation in studying the control of pollution at the source. At the Association's request, Mr. H. B. Hommon of the Stream Pollution Laboratory of the Public Health Service established an experimental purification plant at the New York State cannery mentioned. His investigation was proceeding in a satisfactory manner when the canning plant was destroyed by fire and the experimental purification plant as well. This put an end to the work at that time.

In the summer of 1916 it was arranged for Mr. Hommon to take up the investigation again in the vicinity of Cincinnati. He worked out the procedure necessary and established a purification plant that handled the effluent of a small tomato cannery in a satisfactory manner.

Extension of these investigations to other tomato-canning districts, and also to other foods, was planned, but was prevented by our entry into the World War. As a war measure, however, Mr. Hommon was detailed to make recommendations for the disposal of waste from a baked-bean canning plant in the vicinity of Washington. Here it was found possible by very inexpensive means to protect the effluent in a manner that was satisfactory to the community and the state health officer.

Enquiries of state health officers have increased since that time and it has become increasingly evident that the whole question of disposal of liquid waste from canning plants must be systematically studied to meet the requirements of health officials. Many canners in the meantime have given the matter attention and have established systems that answer their immediate needs. Some state health officers, notably in California, have given the matter considerable attention and, as previously noted, legislation has been enacted or is in contemplation in a number of states.

The satisfactory disposal of wastes is a question of interest to every canner, and Association members can assist in the work now under consideration by furnishing information on methods and processes they employ.

#### U. S. Veterans Bureau to Buy Canned Vegetables

The U. S. Veterans Bureau has mailed out its first proposals for canned foods under the centralized purchasing program adopted by the Bureau early in the year. Heretofore the fifty-two hospitals included in the plan have been largely supplied by local dealers and jobbers. Under the new plan direct shipments will be made from the firms contracting to furnish the supplies.

Proposals mailed out on April 14 call for approximately 70 carloads of canned vegetables. Bids may be submitted by any firms interested, who will be required to submit both prices and samples. The specifications call for only the best qualities. Bids will be opened June 2, at which time samples will be scrutinized by food experts and dietitians of the Bureau. Any canner desiring a copy of the proposals should communicate with the Director, U. S. Veterans Bureau, Attention Chief of Business Management Sub-division, Washington, D. C.

The proposals call for the following items and lots:

Kraut—236 dozen No. 3, 855 dozen No. 10.

Spinach—586 dozen No. 3, 2,021 dozen No. 10.

Squash—78 dozen No. 3, 365 dozen No. 10.

Tomatoes, whole, fancy packed—1,068 dozen No. 3, 2,325 dozen No. 10.  
Tomatoes, extra standard—1,446 dozen No. 10.  
Tomatoes, puree—1,446 dozen No. 10.  
Asparagus, green, fancy packed—12,660 dozen No. 1.  
String beans, No. 3 sieve, fancy packed—1,746 dozen No. 2, 3,045 dozen No. 10.  
Beets, whole count not less than 60 to a No. 10 tin—396 dozen No. 2, 901 dozen No. 10.  
Corn, early Crosby, fancy packed—1,308 dozen No. 2, 1,517 dozen No. 10.  
Corn, Golden Bantam, fancy packed—604 dozen No. 2, 1,019 dozen No. 10.  
Peas, fancy No. 3 sieve—2,304 dozen No. 2, 2,850 dozen No. 10.  
Pumpkin, fancy packed—120 dozen No. 2, 520 dozen No. 10.

### Proposed Freight Rate Increase Suspended

By an order in Docket No. 2651, schedules proposing to revise the freight rates on canned foods from stations on the Mobile and Ohio Railroad in Alabama and Mississippi to various destinations in the Mississippi Valley have been suspended by the Interstate Commerce Commission from April 15 to August 15. The changes as proposed by the carriers, which were to become effective April 15, would result in general increases. For example, from Neely, Ala., to Memphis, Tenn., the present rate of 29.5 cents per 100 pounds would be increased to 42 cents. The Commission has assigned the case for hearing at Mobile on April 26.

### Supreme Court Decisions

Affirming the decision of the Circuit Court of Appeals for the Fourth Circuit, the U. S. Supreme Court has held that the National Exchange Bank of Baltimore was not liable for the government's loss on a U. S. Veterans Bureau check upon the Treasurer of the United States for \$47.50 which, after issue, was raised to \$4,750, cashed at a bank in South Carolina, negotiated by it to the Baltimore bank, and by the latter endorsed and delivered to the Baltimore branch of the Richmond Federal Reserve Bank. Citing the principle that if the drawer and drawee are the same the drawer can not recover for an overpayment to a payee, because he is bound to know his own checks, the Court stated that in this case there is no doubt that in truth the check was drawn by the United States upon itself.

In its decision in the New Jersey telephone rate case, the Supreme Court announced the principle that a public utility is entitled to a fair return on its property diverted to the public use and that a state commission has no right to consider past

earnings in connection with present and future business. The court held that the telephone company could not be expected to make up a present or future deficit out of its accumulated depreciation reserve.

In another decision the Supreme Court held that the provisions of the Illinois franchise law under which an arbitrary value is placed for taxing purpose on the stock of corporations issued without any fixed value, are valid and constitutional. This finding affirmed the decision of the lower courts.

The Supreme Court refused to review its recent decision prohibiting states from quarantining against plant pests. Since the earlier decision, which held by a divided vote of the court that the Federal Government exclusively occupied the quarantine field, bills have been introduced in Congress to give the States the right to place quarantines.

#### **Coming Cannery Meetings**

The Pennsylvania Cannery Association, it is announced, will meet at York on May 6, and the Indiana Cannery Association will hold a meeting at Indianapolis on May 7.

#### **Advertising Norwegian Fish in Foreign Countries**

Under the Norwegian law effective July 1, 1924, by which exporters of canned fish are required to pay about 2 cents per case of canned fish exported into a fund to be used in advertising the products of Norwegian canneries in foreign countries, \$48,145 was collected up to January 1st of the present year. According to the American consul at Stavanger about \$20,000 will be spent this year for advertising in Great Britain. The plan is to advertise a trade-mark that is to be used by all canners with a guarantee of the quality of the goods sold under that trade-mark. It is expected later to advertise in the United States.

#### **Conference on Warehouse Terms and Conditions**

Representatives of industries interested in warehousing have been invited by the Department of Commerce to meet in the Department's office at Washington at 10 A. M., Friday, April 30, to review and consider for adoption the terms and conditions for the storage of goods in warehouses which have been adopted by the American Warehousemen's Association. These terms and conditions were developed by a committee of the As-

sociation, working in cooperation with the Department of Commerce, and committees of shippers, railwaymen, bankers, etc.

Canners who are interested may obtain a draft of the standard terms and conditions proposed to be adopted by addressing E. S. Gregg, Chief, Transportation Division, Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce, Washington.

#### **Canada Amends Labeling Regulations**

The Canadian regulations regarding the labeling of food products were amended by two orders of March 19, 1926. Under the first order the labels on all meats, meat food products, lard, shortening, and similar substances, and processed fruits and vegetables and their products, in package form, must indicate (1) the name and address of the manufacturer or of the person or firm for whom they were manufactured, and (2) the net weight of the contents, except in the case of standard size containers under the meat and canned foods act, and when the weight of the package and contents is under 2 ounces. The second order provides that the labels on bottles, jars, and cans containing maple sirup must show (1) the name of the article, (2) the name and address of the person or firm responsible for the packing, and (3) a declaration of the net contents in pints, quarts, gallons, liters, or fractions thereof, or of the net weight in ounces or pounds, if supplemented by such as the following statement: "One gallon of maple sirup weighs 13 pounds 3 ounces."

#### **Canners Invited to American Wholesale Grocers Convention**

The Annual Convention of the American Wholesale Grocers Association will be held at Atlanta, Georgia, on May 11 to 14. A cordial invitation has been extended to the members of the National Canners Association to attend the sessions of the Convention, at which a number of interesting subjects will be up for discussion.

#### **Freight Rate Increase to be Argued May 19th**

The application of the western railways for a general 5 per cent advance in freight rates is to be argued before the Interstate Commerce Commission on May 19th. In the meantime, briefs are being filed by shippers and shippers' organizations, over 60 being received during the week ended April 10th. Reply briefs on behalf of the railways are to be filed after April 24th.

### Hearings on Clean Bills of Lading

The amendment to the bill-of-lading act proposed in S. 91, which would require railroads in interstate commerce to check up consignments so as to issue clean bills of lading, was the subject of a hearing before the Senate Interstate Commerce Committee this week. Representatives of shippers presented testimony to show that the carriers are protected under the present law but the shippers are not provided for. "When the railroads do not issue clean bills of lading," one witness stated, "their responsibility is ended after the goods have been loaded on freight cars, and if any of the shipment is missing, the consignee or the shipper suffers the loss." The chairman of the commerce committee of the American Bar Association stated that his committee had fully considered the proposed amendment and had unanimously recommended its endorsement. Railway representatives opposed the amendment on the ground that its enactment would entail considerable expense upon the railroads, causing losses unless rates were increased.

### Car Loadings

For the week ended April 3 loadings of revenue freight totaled 928,092 cars, an increase of 4,692 cars compared with the corresponding week last year and 66,102 cars over the corresponding week in 1924. Compared with the preceding week, the total for the week ended April 3 was a decrease of 39,746 cars, decreases being reported in the total loading of all commodities except ore.

### Iodine Content of Pacific Coast Salmon

The University of Washington has issued a bulletin entitled "Iodine Content of the Pacific Coast Salmon," presenting a discussion of the relation of iodine to goiter, a resume of experimental work on iodine in various foodstuffs, and a detailed statement of the authors' experimental work with canned salmon, fresh salmon, and salt used in canning. The bulletin also contains a comprehensive bibliography.

From the experimental work it is concluded that there is no essential difference between the iodine content of fresh and canned salmon and that iodine in canners' salt is not present in sufficient quantity to appreciably increase the amount in canned salmon. The iodine content varies with the species, and within the species, according to the district where the salmon is caught. Different parts of the same fish vary in iodine content, the parts



of the flesh highest in fat apparently having the most iodine. The melt and roe are especially rich in iodine. Comparison with other foodstuffs shows that canned salmon contains much more iodine than other foods such as butter, milk, meat, vegetables and cereals.

The authors of the report are Norman D. Jarvis, Ray W. Clough and Ernest D. Clark.

#### Canned Fishery Products in 1925

The fish-canning industry in the United States in 1925 had an output of products and by-products valued at \$95,177,442, an increase of 15 per cent over the preceding year and 29 per cent over the average of the last four years, according to the U. S. Bureau of Fisheries.

The salmon pack decreased somewhat in quantity but increased in total value. Considerable gain was noted in California sardine and tuna production, which has continued to increase strongly during the past five years. The Maine sardine production has remained fairly steady during the past five years, with only a slight decrease in production and value last year. The clam pack was fairly well maintained, although soft-clam production was considerably lower. Canned-oyster production was greater than last year and prices averaged slightly higher. A decided drop in prices of canned shrimp, coupled with increased production, made an unsatisfactory year for shrimp canners.

The quantity and value of the canned fish products in 1925 was as follows:

	<i>Cases</i>	<i>Value</i>
Salmon .....	6,018,550	\$47,369,507
Sardines .....	3,585,699	13,097,318
Alewives and roe .....	84,548	255,506
Tuna and tuna-like fish .....	1,102,471	8,499,080
Shrimp .....	735,714	3,782,819
Crabs .....	4,130	52,499
Razor clams .....	110,396	860,002
Hard clams .....	38,042	218,601
Soft clams .....	32,522	287,073
Clam chowder, etc. ....	150,726	484,702
Oysters .....	654,755	3,721,159
Miscellaneous .....	.....	1,794,796